

REMARKS

This amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of objection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 as indicated above to clarify the Examiner's concern regarding a cutter. No new matter has been added and the amendments to the claims are merely for purposes of clarification.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of the specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.71, Applicant submits that a cutting means is disclosed on page 10, lines 7-12 of the specification. Furthermore, it is believed that the amendment to the claims should clarify the confusion with respect to the cutting means.

Rejections under 112 first and second paragraph

Claims 1-5 have been rejected for failing to comply with the enablement requirement and for being indefinite. Applicant submits that the claim amendments should now put the claims in proper form and the rejections under 112 first and second paragraph should be removed.

Rejection under 102(b) in view of Grubb

The Examiner maintains Grubb teaches a flatwire cutting apparatus 10 for cutting conductors 78 in stepped form.

Grubb teaches a tool 10 for crimping ribbon cable onto a connector. See abstract. The ends of the ribbon cable are uninsulated and unsheathed, and separated into signal wires 78 and uninsulated drainwires 83. Column 2, lines 58-62. At one step, all of the signal wires 78 are

crimped to the connector 76 and at another step, all of the uninsulated drainwires 83 are crimped to the connector. Column 3, lines 11-47. Thus, a gang of connectors are staked into a connector simultaneously.

It is apparent based upon this brief description of Grubb and upon viewing the figures, that Grubb does not disclose conductors, the ends of which are in stepped form or alternately staggered. Furthermore, the figures of Schumacher (USP 3,775,552) which discloses the ribbon coaxial cable described in Grubb (column 2, lines 28-30) further demonstrates that the conductors are not in stepped or alternating form.

In addition, the ends of the conductors in Grubb are unsheathed and uninsulated (column 2, lines 58-62) contrary to sheathed and insulated ends of the conductors of the present invention.

Furthermore, it is apparent based upon viewing Grubb, that cutting of the end portions of the conductors in stepped form is not performed (claim 3). The tool 10 merely crimps a plurality of conductors 74 into a connector simultaneously 76. At most the wires are driven into slots 90 and the edges of the slots cut through the insulation 82 and make contact with the center conductors. Column 3, lines 23-26. However, at no point are the ends of the cable cut in stepped form or the end portions of the conductors in different planes.

For the above reasons, claims 1-5 should be deemed patentable in view of Grubb.

Applicant has added claims 6-11 to provide a more varied scope of protection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/053,007

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q68157

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

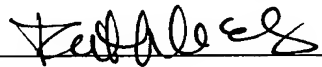
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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Date: October 2, 2003



FIG. 4
PRIOR ART

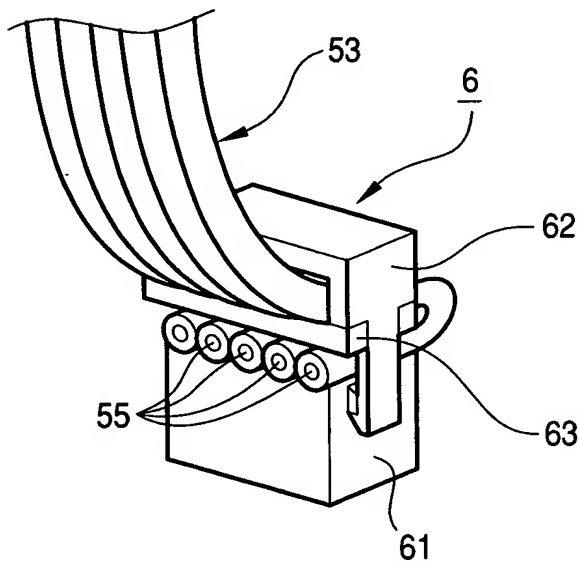


FIG. 5
PRIOR ART

